

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**

14215 RIVER ROAD

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E-Mail: [dpc@citlink.net](mailto:dpc@citlink.net) Home Page: [www.delta.ca.gov](http://www.delta.ca.gov)**Agenda Item #13**

July 14, 2000

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Update on CalTrans' Highway 160 Guardrail Installation Project

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At the last Commission meeting, CalTrans staff made a presentation on the status of the proposed guardrail installation project and answered numerous questions from Commission. The public made comments during the public hearing portion of the agenda item.

At that meeting, CalTrans Project Manager, Derhl Pratt, pledged to work with Delta parties to address matters of critical importance to Reclamation Districts and Delta farmers. To that end, Delta Protection Commission staff set up a meeting attended by CalTrans and representatives of four directly affected Reclamation Districts (Sherman Island, Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District, Grand Island and Sutter Island), and the City of Isleton.

There was a helpful exchange of information at the meeting. The Reclamation District representatives asked for additional information about the location of the proposed guardrail. CalTrans has sent information to the meeting participants and a follow-up meeting was scheduled for July 26, 2000.

Any new information about the status of the project will be presented to the Commission at the meeting on July 27, 2000.

Attached is a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Pratt incorporating comments from the last meeting.

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July 7, 2000

Derhl Pratt, Project Manager  
CalTrans-District 3  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Subject: CalTrans Proposal to Install Guardrails on Highway 160, Sacramento County

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Thank you for bringing your team to the Delta Protection Commission meeting in May to update the Commission on the guardrail project on Highway 160 in Sacramento County. The Commission received a great deal of information from your project team about identification of the need for the project to protect public safety, how the project was developed, and the current status of the project. The Commission was clear in expressing support for the goals of promoting public safety on the State Highway.

The Commissioners had a great number of questions and comments about the project and the information used to identify the need for the project, select the proposed project and the process for refining and designing the project. The Commission asked for more information about:

- causes of accidents on Highway 160 (DUIs, weather factors, darkness, and excessive speed) including a map showing the location of accidents where cars went into the River,
- comparisons between parallel roads with guardrail and without guardrail to analyze benefits of guardrails, information which documents accidents prevented by installation of guardrails,
- if installation of the posts would affect the integrity of the levee,
- the visual impact of the guardrail on the designated scenic highway, and
- alternatives to the guardrail (increased enforcement, driver education, lower speed limit, rumble strips, Bott's dots, signage), possible adverse impacts to the movement of large farm implements on the Highway, possible increased costs to the Reclamation Districts for levee maintenance.

In summary, the Commissioners expressed their disappointment that CalTrans had not sought Delta community input prior to selecting a project alternative; that a fuller environmental review should have been prepared and circulated to landowners, local governments, Reclamation Districts and the Commission to seek public review and comment; and that CalTrans should have evaluated a wider range of alternative

approaches to enhancing public safety on Highway 160. The Commission noted that many of the issues raised have not been fully responded to by CalTrans staff. And finally, the Commission suggested that CalTrans take the Commissioner comments and develop additional alternatives for addressing the public safety problems on Highway 160.

Thank you for attending the meeting and committing to work with the Reclamation Districts and others that would be directly affected by the proposed guardrail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margit Aramburu", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margit Aramburu  
Executive Director

cc: Patrick N. McCarty